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THE VON STRUCKER GAMBIT
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LUCKY AND HIS DELICIOUS MARSHMALLOW SHAPES ARE HIDDEN!

To keep people from getting his Lucky Charms cereal, Lucky's hidden himself and his seven marshmallow shapes somewhere in this picture. Can you find them all? If you need a clue for all the shapes, check the box!

THE VON STRUCKER GAMBIT

PART 3

FEATURING:

CAPTAIN AMERICA

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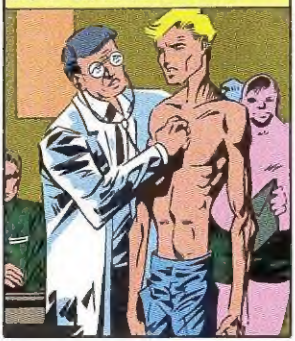
THE ORIGIN OF CAPTAIN AMERICA

1940... AS THE WORLD TREMBLED ON THE BRINK OF GLOBAL WAR, EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD STEVEN ROGERS SAT IN A MOVIE THEATER, HIS BLOOD QUICKENING AT THE SIGHT OF NEWSREEL FOOTAGE OF WARTORN EUROPE...

THE NAZIS' ASSAULT ON FREEDOM SPURRED THE NEED IN HIM TO TAKE ACTION. THE NEXT DAY THE YOUNG ART STUDENT WENT TO HIS NEAREST ARMY RECRUITMENT STATION TO SIGN UP.

UNFORTUNATELY, NATURE DID NOT PROVIDE HIM WITH A BODY TO MATCH THE STRENGTH OF HIS IDEALS AND HE WAS REJECTED AS PHYSICALLY UNFIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE.

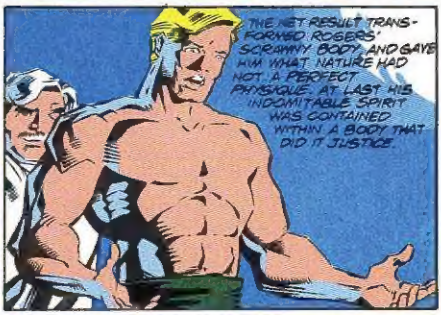


GENERAL PHILLIPS HEARD THE BOY'S IMPASSIONED SPEECH WHY HE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SERVE SOME OTHER WAY AND OFFERED HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO JUST THAT.

HE OFFERED HIM THE CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN OPERATION : REBIRTH, A PLAN TO CREATE A PLATOON OF AMERICAN SUPER-SOLDIERS.

CAREFULLY SCREENED AND CHOSEN AS AN IDEAL SUBJECT FOR THE HIGHLY EXPERIMENTAL PROCESS, ROGERS UNDERWENT A GRUELING BATTERY OF ORAL, INTRAVENOUS, AND RADIATION TREATMENTS.

THE NET RESULT TRANSFORMED ROGERS' SCRAWNY BODY, AND GAVE HIM WHAT NATURE HAD NOT. A PERFECT PHYSIQUE. AT LAST HIS INDOMITABLE SPIRIT WAS CONTAINED WITHIN A BODY THAT DID IT JUSTICE.



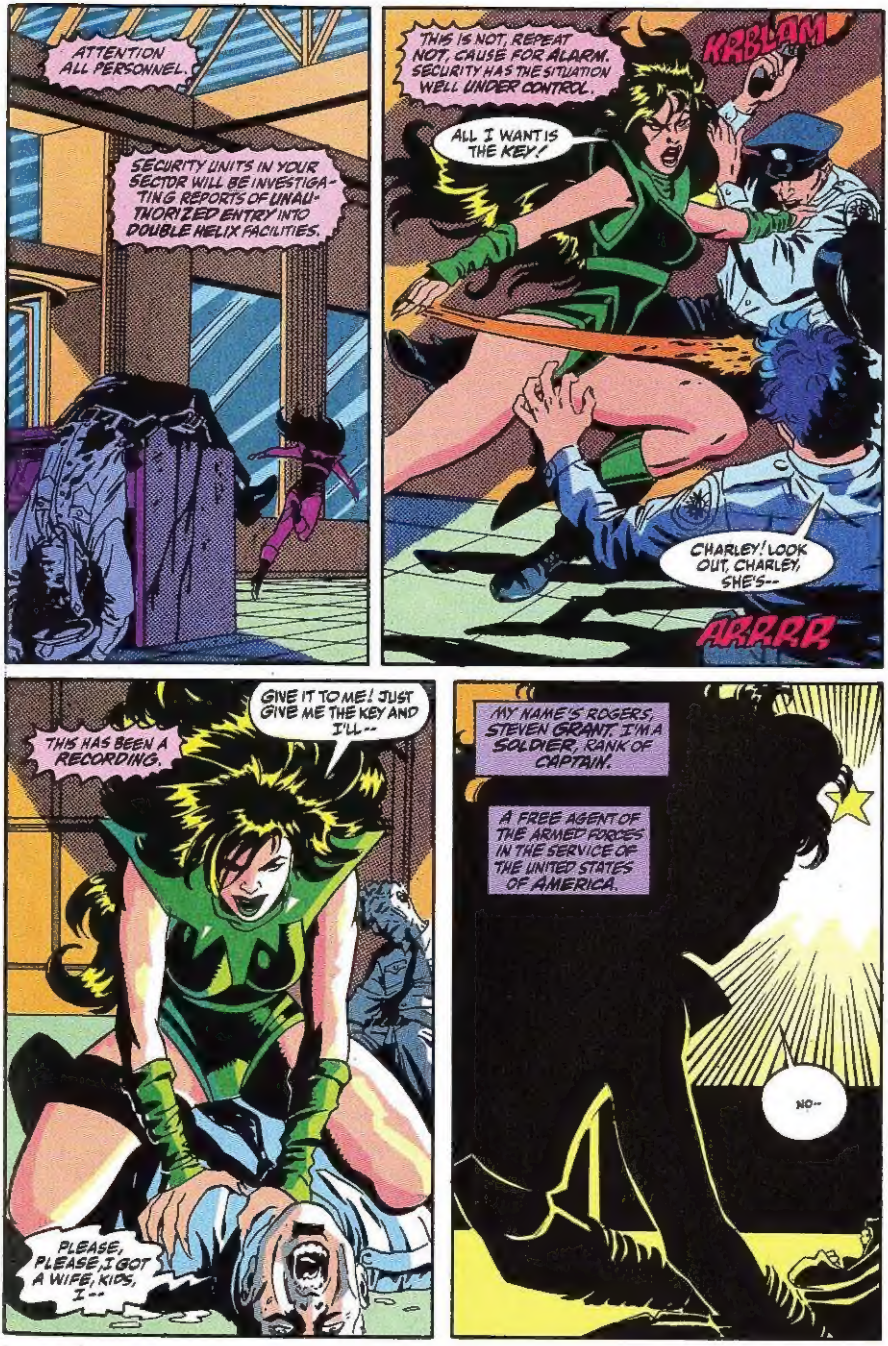
SOLDIERS CAME TO AN ABRUPT END AS A NAZI SPY ASSASSINATED DR. ABRAHAM ERSKINE, THE CREATOR OF THE PROCESS.

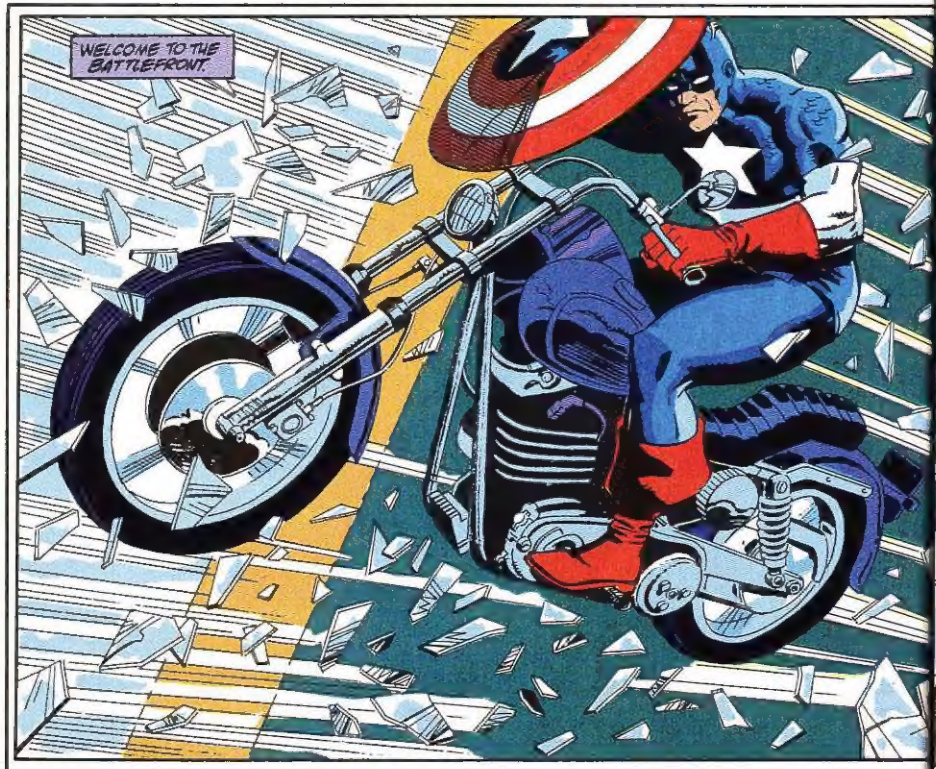
BEFORE THE SPY COULD TURN HIS PISTOL ON ANOTHER INNOCENT, ROGERS REACTED, AND THOUGH HE HAD NEVER BEFORE THROWN A PUNCH BEFORE IN HIS LIFE, HE STRUCK THE ASSASSIN, SENDING HIM SAILING INTO THE POWER GENERATOR.

WHILE TRYING TO EXTRICATE HIMSELF, THE SPY GRABBED THE WRONG WIRES AND DIED.

THE SOLE BENEFACTOR OF OPERATION: REBIRTH, ROGERS UNDERWENT A CRASH COURSE OF VIGOROUS TRAINING, TUTORED BY SOME OF AMERICA'S FINEST GYMNASTIC COACHES AND COMBAT EXPERTS.
ALTHOUGH HIS BODY WAS AT THE PINNACLE OF HUMAN PERFECTION, ALL STRENUOUS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY WAS FOREIGN TO HIM. HE HAD TO START BY LEARNING THE VERY BASICS.
AND ONCE HE HAD LEARNED HOW TO USE HIS BODY FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE, HE REALIZED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO TRAIN EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THAT PEAK.
MONTHS LATER, GENERAL PHILLIPS REVEALED TO HIM WHAT ALL OF HIS TRAINING WAS GROOMING HIM FOR. STEVE ROGERS WAS TO BE NOT ONLY AMERICA'S SUPER-SOLDIER BUT ALSO A COSTUMED SYMBOL OF THE IDEALS OF AMERICA ITSELF.
STEVE ROGERS WAS TO BE ... CAPTAIN AMERICA! AND HIS MISSION WAS TO STOP HIS NAZI COUNTERPART, THE HEINOUS RED SKULL!
FOR FOUR YEARS, HE FOUGHT THE SKULL AND HIS NAZI COHORTS, SCORING AN IMPRESSIVE RUN OF VICTORIES. FINALLY, ON A FATEFUL DAY IN 1945--
--WHILE TRYING TO STOP A DRONE PLANE FROM BOMBING LONDON--
--CAPTAIN AMERICA FELL INTO THE NORTHERN ATLANTIC OCEAN, HIS LUNGS FILLING WITH FREEZING WATER...
...WHICH REACTED WITH THE SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM IN HIS CELLULAR STRUCTURE TO PLUNGE HIM INTO A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION.
SEVERAL DECADES PASSED. A NEW GENERATION OF HEROES AROSE, AND THE FOREMOST GROUP OF WHICH, THE MIGHTY AVENGERS, FISHED HIM OUT OF THE SEA.
ALTHOUGH INITIALLY DISORIENTED BY THE PASSAGE OF TIME, THE STAR-SPANGLED CHAMPION REDEDICATED HIMSELF TO THE MISSION HE HAD LOVED. NOW AS BOTH LONE CRUSADER AND LEADER OF THE AVENGERS, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE FOR LIBERTY, JUSTICE, AND THE AMERICAN DREAM!

CAP AND COMPANY
NOMAD
D-MAN
BERNIE ROSENTHAL
MICHAEL O'BRIEN
THE FALCON
EDWIN JARVIS
NICK FURY
PEGGY CARTER
FABIAN STANKOWITZ
JOHN JAMESON
DIAMONDBACK


ATTENTION ALL PERSONNEL.
SECURITY UNITS IN YOUR SECTOR WILL BE INVESTIGATING REPORTS OF UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY INTO DOUBLE HELIX FACILITIES.
THIS IS NOT, REPEAT NOT, CAUSE FOR ALARM. SECURITY HAS THE SITUATION WELL UNDER CONTROL.
KRBLAM
ALL I WANT IS THE KEY!
CHARLEY! LOOK OUT, CHARLEY, SHE'S--
ARRRR
THIS HAS BEEN A RECORDING.
GIVE IT TO ME! JUST GIVE ME THE KEY AND I'LL--
PLEASE, PLEASE, I GOT A WIFE, KIDS, I--
MY NAME'S ROGERS, STEVEN GRANT. I'M A SOLDIER, RANK OF CAPTAIN.
A FREE AGENT OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
NO--


WELCOME TO THE BATTLEFRONT.

NO!
THE VON STRUCKER GAMBIT (PART 3)
CALL OF DUTY
D.G. CHICHESTER, WRITER
MIKE MANLEY, ARTIST
RICK PARKER, LETTERER
ED LAZELARRI, COLORIST
RALPH MACCHIO, EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF

SUSPICION OF SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITY GETS ROUTINELY ROUTED THROUGH THE N.Y.P.D. AND SHOWS UP ON THE AVENGERS' ALERT BOARD.
I WAS ON STATION TONIGHT, SO I GOT THE DUTY.
I DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM...
LEAVE THE MAN BE.
SCREEEEEEEEE

OF COURSE, IT'S QUICKLY APPARENT THERE'S LITTLE ROUTINE ABOUT HER --
--NOT IN THE SENSE OF HER BEING JUST ANOTHER POWER-FILLED CRAZY WITH SOMETHING TO PROVE.
THEN DON'T.

I CAN'T--
-- I CAN'T HELP MYSELF!
SHE'S HAD SOME SORT OF MILITARY TRAINING -- I CAN TELL FROM THE WAY SHE HANDLES HERSELF.

NOT THAT I HAVEN'T PICKED UP A FEW MOVES OF MY OWN OVER THE YEARS.

AIEEE

SCRAAEEP

SCRRP

THOOM

GOT IT!

THAT TRAINING OF HERS HAS HER OFF AND RUNNING TOWARD WHATEVER IT IS SHE WANTS--

--WHATEVER IT IS SHE NEEDS.

NOT SO FAST, YOU...

MY TRAINING TAKES ME IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION...

YES, SIR--OF COURSE. I'M HERE FOR YOU, I'M RIGHT HERE...

PLEASE... I'M HURT, HURT BAD...

PLEASE, CAPTAIN... PLEASE HELP ME...

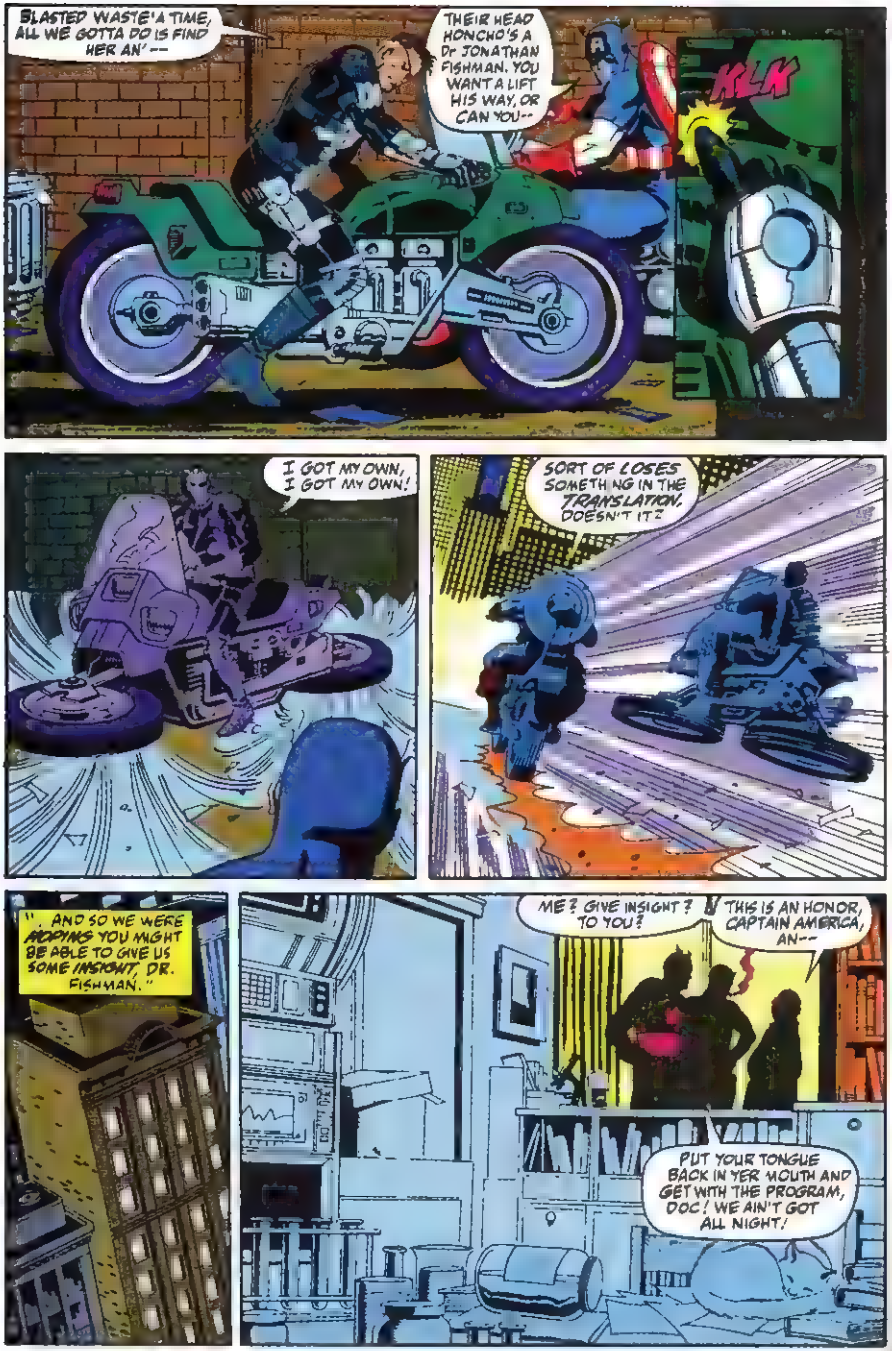
FINALLY HERE-- FINALLY!
LAB ACCESS CODE GREEN.
KLIK
LET IT BE WORTH IT...
HSSSSSSS
THE GUARD-- ALL THOSE LIKE HIM-- THEY'RE THE ONES WHO THE TRAINING WAS REALLY ALWAYS MEANT FOR.
THOSE DRESSINGS SHOULD HOLD--YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE, SIR. MORE HELP WILL BE HERE SOON.
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN... MY WIFE AND KIDS THANK YOU...
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO MAKE IT ALL MATTER.
THE INNOCENT WHO NEED A DEFENDER. THE WRONGED WHO DESERVE AN AVENGER.
TAKE SOME TIME OFF-- SPEND IT WITH THEM.

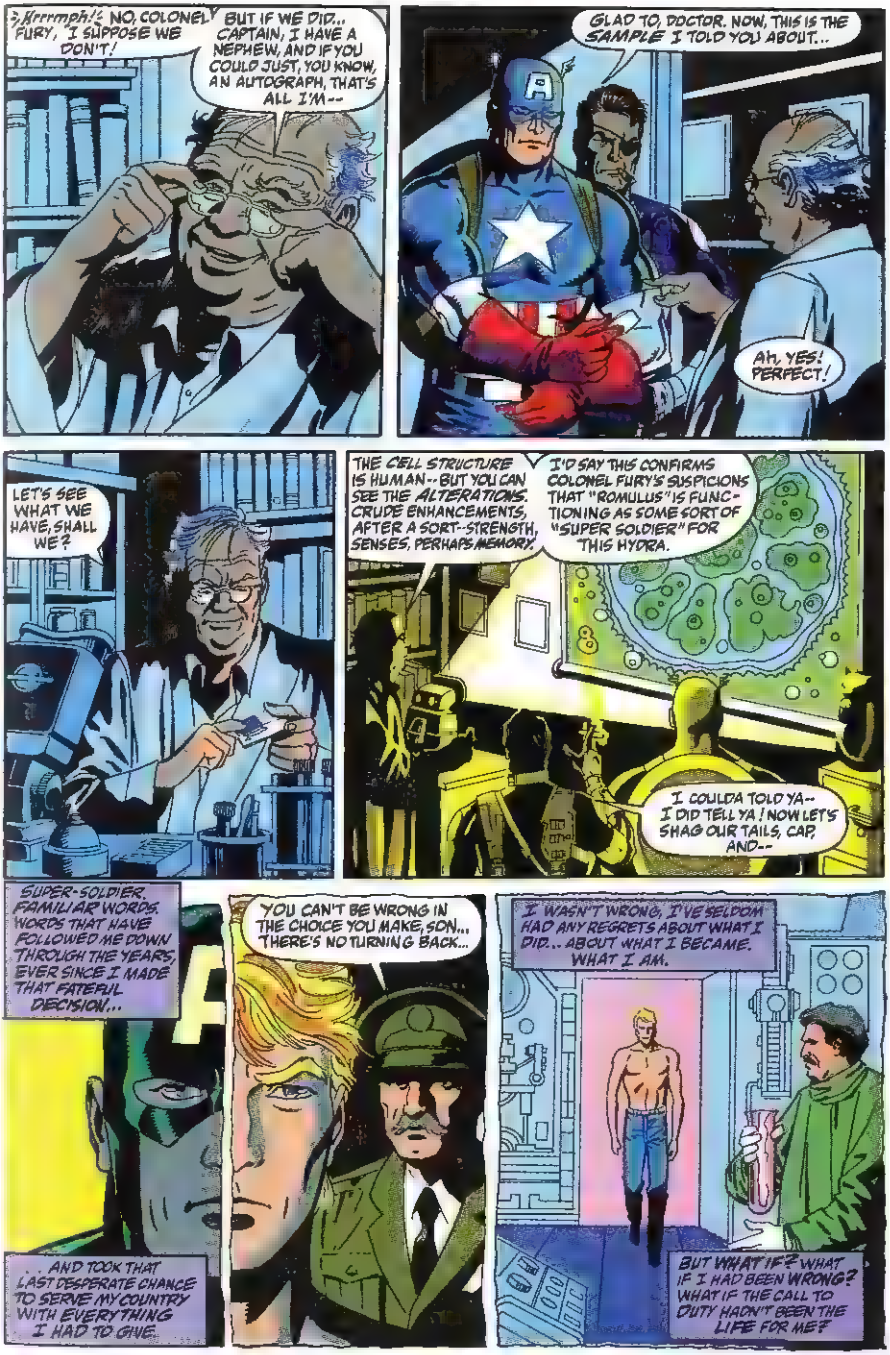
NO TIME TO WASTE.
YOU TWO ARE COMING WITH ME.
THOUGH MAYBE NOT ALL AT ONCE...
SHE HAD HER ESCAPE PLANNED-- TRAINING AGAIN.
AND SHE GOT WHAT SHE CAME FOR. WHAT SHE NEEDED SO DESPERATELY.
PARTS. BODY PARTS
NOT WHATCHA'D CALL A PRETTY SIGHT, IS IT?
WE GOTTA TALK, CAP'N..
FURY!

" ROOM'S TWENTY-TWO FIFTY A NIGHT... "
...SHEETS ARE TEN BUCKS EXTRA.
I DON'T SLEEP.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD. MIGHT DO SOMETHIN' FOR THAT LOUSY ATTITUDE A' YOURS!
AN' PEOPLE WONDER WHY NEW YORKERS ARE RUDE...
KLIK
RECORD.
DAKIN! REPORTING.
HYDRA HUNT AND DESTROY OF ESCAPED GENETIC EXPERIMENTS PROCEEDING.
SECONDARY MISSION-- TESTING OF EXPERIMENTS' CAPABILITIES BY BRINGING THEM IN CONTACT WITH SUBJECTS DAREDEVIL, PUNISHER AND CAPTAIN AMERICA-- ALSO PROCEEDING.

THE LOUD MOUTH ATTACHED TO THE CHEAP CIGAR IS ONE COLONEL NICK FURY, TOP DOG OF SHIELD, OUR U.N.-SANCTIONED ESPIONAGE AGENCY.
YOU WERE THERE, CAP'N--YOU SAW THE NUMBER THOSE HYDRA S.O.B.'s PULLED!
1500 SHIELD AGENTS DEAD--1500 GOOD AND DECENT MEN AND WOMEN--KILLED BY THOSE SCUM!*
*IT HAPPENED IN THE S.H.I.E.L.D. MONTHLY SERIES. --Serious Rolf
WE'VE WORKED TOGETHER BEFORE--WWII AND SINCE--BUT THIS TIME THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT MY OLD ALLY.
I WISH WE HAD GOTTEN THERE SOONER, FURY, GOD AS MY WITNESS I DO, BUT--
YER WALTZIN' PARTNER FROM BEFORE--ROMULUS. THEY CALL HER--SHE'S ONE OF A BUNCH OF 'EM WE'VE BEEN TRACKIN' ACROSS THE CITY. WE NAIL HER AN' WE CAN GET SOME ANSWERS ON WHO'S RUNNIN' THEIR TERRORIST SHOW.
THERE'S SOMETHING DANGEROUSLY ON THE EDGE ABOUT NICK.
I WANT THOSE ANSWERS, CAP--I'M GONNA GET 'EM.'
WHAT ABOUT TAKING OFF THOSE BLINDERS, FURY, AND GETTING ANSWERS ON WHAT SHE WAS UP TO HERE TONIGHT?
HEY--!
TISSUE RESIDUE--FROM WHEN SHE HIT MY SHIELD.
DOUBLE HELIX IS A GENETICS LAB--I WANT TO SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING THEIR PEOPLE CAN TELL US ABOUT THIS ROMULUS.

STATUS--HUNTER CRIPPLER'S INCOMPETENCE BROUGHT EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECT SATHAN INTO HANDS OF BOTH DAREDEVIL AND ESPIONAGE AGENCY S.H.I.E.L.D.* CRIPPLER DEFECTED, SATHAN EXECUTED.
STATUS--HUNTER TAKIMOTO'S TWISTED SENSE OF HONOR RESULTED IN ALLIANCE WITH VIGILANTE PUNISHER. TAKIMOTO KILLED, EXPERIMENT GUILLOTINE DAMAGED IN RETURN TO HYDRA.
"ANONYMOUS" PHONE CALL TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES ON EXPERIMENT ROMULUS' ACTIVITIES INSTIGATED INVOLVEMENT OF CAPTAIN AMERICA. CONTINUING OBSERVATION.
*STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERVENTION, ESPIONAGE, AND LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE. -- R.A.L.F.
PERSONAL NOTE. WHILE NOT QUESTIONING HYDRA LEADER BARON VON STRUCKER'S ORDERS, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THERE'S MORE TO WHAT HE WOULD HAVE US DO.
THESE FAILURES. THESE GENETIC THINGS...THEY STAIN THE REPUTATION OF THIS GRAND NEW HYDRA ORGANIZATION YOU HAVE BUILT, MY BARON... ONE DEDICATED TO WORLD CONQUEST.
I'LL WIPE IT CLEAN.
TRANSMIT.
I CAN'T HAVE THAT.
I'LL WIPE THE STAIN CLEAN FOR YOU, MY BARON.
DESTRUCT.
HRRRSSSS


BLASTED WASTE'A TIME, ALL WE GOTTA DO IS FIND HER AN'---
THEIR HEAD HONCHO'S A Dr JONATHAN FISHMAN. YOU WANT A LIFT HIS WAY, OR CAN YOU--
KLK
I GOT MY OWN, I GOT MY OWN!
SORT OF LOSES SOMETH NG IN THE TRANSLATION. DOESN'T IT?
". AND SO WE WERE HOPING YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE US SOME INSIGHT, DR. FISHMAN."
ME? GIVE INSIGHT? TO YOU?
THIS IS AN HONOR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, AN--
PUT YOUR TONGUE BACK IN YER MOUTH AND GET WITH THE PROGRAM, DOC! WE AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT!


;Hrrrmph!; NO, COLONEL FURY, I SUPPOSE WE DON'T.
BUT IF WE DID.. CAPTAIN, I HAVE A NEPHEW, AND IF YOU COULD JUST, YOU KNOW, AN AUTOGRAPH, THAT'S ALL I'M--
GLAD TO, DOCTOR. NOW, THIS IS THE SAMPLE I TOLD YOU ABOUT...
AH, YES! PERFECT!
LET'S SEE WHAT WE HAVE, SHALL WE?
THE CELL STRUCTURE IS HUMAN--BUT YOU CAN SEE THE ALTERATIONS. CRUDE ENHANCEMENTS, AFTER A SORT--STRENGTH, SENSES, PERHAPS MEMORY.
I'D SAY THIS CONFIRMS COLONEL FURY'S SUSPICIONS THAT "ROMULUS" IS FUNCTIONING AS SOME SORT OF "SUPER SOLDIER" FOR THIS HYDRA.
I COULDA TOLD YA-- I DID TELL YA! NOW LET'S SHAG OUR TAILS, CAP, AND--
SUPER-SOLDIER. FAMILIAR WORDS. WORDS THAT HAVE FOLLOWED ME DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS, EVER SINCE I MADE THAT FATEFUL DECISION...
YOU CAN'T BE WRONG IN THE CHOICE YOU MAKE, SON... THERE'S NO TURNING BACK...
. . AND TOOK THAT LAST DESPERATE CHANCE TO SERVE MY COUNTRY WITH EVERYTHING I HAD TO GIVE.
I WASN'T WRONG; I'VE SELDOM HAD ANY REGRETS ABOUT WHAT I DID... ABOUT WHAT I BECAME. WHAT I AM.
BUT WHAT IF? WHAT IF I HAD BEEN WRONG? WHAT IF THE CALL TO DUTY HADN'T BEEN THE LIFE FOR ME?

WHAT THEN... WITH NO TURNING BACK... WHAT THEN?
WHAT WOULD SHE HAVE WANTED WITH YOUR WORK AT DOUBLE HELIX, DOCTOR?
C'MON, CAP, HAVEN'T WE HAD ENOUGH 'A--
HOLD IT, NICK.
WELL, OUR EXPERIMENTS ARE IN THE AREA OF CORRECTING GENETIC ABNORMALITIES--BIRTH DEFECTS, HANDICAPS, THE LIKE...
...PERHAPS THAT'S WHAT SHE WAS SEEKING...
I'M LISTENING.
...A MEANS OF CORRECTING HER OWN CONDITION...
WIPE IT CLEAN...
... WIPE YOU CLEAN.
ALL RIGHT, IT'S OBVIOUS WE AIN'T LEAVIN' THIS DUMP TILL WE HEARD IT ALL--SO WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THE STIFFS THEN, DOC?
WE'D BEEN INJECTING THE CORPSES WITH GENETIC SOLUTIONS, TESTING FOR TISSUE REJECTION--WHAT ROMULUS WANTS IS IN THE PARTS SHE STOLE!

SO WHAT? SHE'S GOT TO HAVE A CORPSE-CASSEROLE?
HARDLY, COLONEL. THE SOLUTION WOULD NEED TO BE DRAWN OUT AND DISTILLED TO BE USEFUL. I DO WISH YOU COULD FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO TREAT MY WORK WITH A LITTLE MORE OF THE RESPECT IT--
THE DOCTOR CAN HOLD HIS OWN AGAINST FURY--NO SMALL FEAT THERE--BUT IT'S NOT THE TWO OF THEM I'M WORRIED ABOUT. IT'S THE GLINT OF GLASS FROM ACROSS THE WAY--
--A SNIPER'S SCOPE--
DOWN!
--THE MUZZLE FLARE--
--THE BATTLE-FRONT COME ROUND AGAIN.
CHUP
KEE
RASH

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
SPKOW
KRTWG
I'VE GOT HER SPOTTED, FURY! I NEED YOU TO--
GOTCHA, DARLIN'! NOW ME AN' YOU, WE GOTTA--
--FURY!
SLASH
AIIRRR

YOU! MAKE ME-- MAKE ME LIKE I WAS!
LET ME BE HUMAN AGAIN!
GAA!
C-CAPTAIN! CAPTAIN!
PLEASE.
ALL RIGHT.
ALL RIGHT-- DO IT!
OH... OH MY...
THWOK!
KCHAK
FURY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THEM TRAVELING IN TWOS--
--HUNTED AND HUNTER--

--AND LUCKY ME, I GET TO BE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE.
KRWUD
I'VE GOT YOU--
I'M FALLING--
SWAK
TRUST IS WEAKNESS, AVENGER.
THIS..THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT.
THANK YOU... AND THANK--

NO!
DAKINI YOU IDIOT! YOU'VE OVERSTEPPED YOUR AUTHORITY AGAIN, YOU--
SPEAKIN' A' AUTHORITY, SISTER, THERE'S SOME QUESTIONS YOU CAN--
YOU'RE A SLOW LEARNER, COLONEL FURY, JUST AS ME SAID YOU'D BE!
FOR THE GLORY OF HYDRA--
KRASHAM
NOT TONIGHT, DAKINI!
URRR
GRRR

BETWEEN THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED--
--QUESTION IS, WHICH IS WHICH?
SNRAK
COME ON--
FURY'S PARANOIA ABOUT THESE TERRORISTS IS DISTURBINGLY CONTAGIOUS..
--NOW YOU'RE MINE!

IT'S GOOD TO BE WANTED.

YOU FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT... BUT NOW IT'S OVER...
PUT THE PISTOL UP, DAKINI.
ROMULUS--YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE STAYED AROUND, EXPERIMENT! NOW I WIPE--
No.
GOD AND COUNTRY!

I'M AN ANIMAL.
WHY? WHY DID THEY DO THIS TO YOU?
BECAUSE I ASKED THEM TO. BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS WHAT I WANTED.. AND I WAS WRONG!
AND NOW THERE'S NO GOING BACK IS THERE? YOU ONLY GET TO CHOOSE ONCE...
USUALLY.
BUT TONIGHT... USE THE SERUM. GET YOUR LIFE BACK!
I MAKE A TOUGH CHOICE-- ALLOW HER TO LEAVE. SHE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HER ACTIONS TONIGHT
AND DAKIN! STILL LIVES. SHE MAY SURVIVE WITH IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION.
I WON'T FORGET THIS, CAPTAIN. I PROMISE YOU.

YOU LET HER GO, DIDN'T YOU?!
DIDN'T YOU?!
URY
A

I TOLD YOU-- WE HAVE TO KNOW WHAT THIS NEW HYDRA IS-- WHO'S BACKING THEM! DIDN'T YOU LISTEN?
WHEN DID YOU START RUNNING WITH DOGS, CAP?
:UNNH:
AND WHEN DID THIS START BEING NICK FURY'S PRIVATE LITTLE WAR? AND STOP BEING ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS?
DON'T EXPECT ME TO OFFER YOU A RIDE THIS TIME.
I'VE GOT A LIFE TO SAVE.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...THEY KILLED THEM--SO MANY OF MY MEN-- AND. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

AH-- MY CASSANDRA! HYDRA WELCOMES YOU BACK WITH ITS MANY ARMS... AND I WELCOME YOU BACK WITH MY TWO!
LIEUTENANT ROMULUS REPORTING AS ORDERED, BARON VON STRUCKER
THE INFORMATION ON CAPTAIN AMERICA... HIS TECHNIQUES AND PROWESS... MY GENETIC MEMORY IMPROVEMENTS RECORDED HIS EVERY MOVE.
SPLENDID! I LOOK FORWARD TO THE FULL DEBRIEFING!
SO THEN, LIEUTENANT... WE LOST SOME PAWNS, BUT THE GAME WENT WELL, NICHT WAHR?
AS YOU PREDICTED-- FURY NEVER LOOKED BEYOND THE DECEPTION OF "ESCAPED EXPERIMENTS" AND "BOUNTY HUNTERS".
MY GAMBIT WAS DESIGNED TO PLAY TO OUR STRENGTHS, MY DEAR... AND THE COLONEL'S CONSIDERABLE WEAKNESSES.
THERE WAS NO WAY FOR HIM TO KNOW IT WAS ALL DESIGNED TO BRING HYDRA'S DATABASES UP TO DATE ON THE POTENTIAL THREAT OF "HEROES" SUCH AS CAPTAIN AMERICA AND DAREDEVIL...
...AND THE POTENTIAL ASSET OF SUCH AN UNPREDICTABLE CHARACTER AS THIS PUNISHER. HE IS ALREADY CLOSE TO THE LINE-- ONE DAY HE MAY CROSS IT TOO FAR AND BECOME WORTHY OF HYDRA.
THINGS MIGHT HAVE GONE EASIER HAD SOME OF THE OTHERS KNOWN, MY BARON... SUCH AS TAKIMOTO, GUILLOTINE, CRIPPLER, DAKINI...
IF YOU WANT TO KEEP A SECRET, MY DEAR, YOU DON'T TELL THE WORLD.
I AM PLEASED-- NOTHING ELSE IS OF CONSEQUENCE.

AND SPEAKING OF PLEASED -- YOUR PERFORMANCE WAS MOST ENJOYABLE!
"LET ME BE HUMAN AGAIN!" OH, ROMULUS, SO CONVINCING!
AN ACT... AN ACT MY BARON!
OF COURSE, OF COURSE!
SEE THAT IT STAYS THAT WAY.
H-HAIL... HAIL HYDRA
YES HAIL HYDRA.
THE END

STAN LEE PRESENTS
BUSHMASTER
BROTHERS
THE VAULT, HOME AWAY FROM HOME TO 185 SUPERHUMAN CONVICTS, INCLUDING QUINCY MEIVER BETTER KNOWN AS BUSHMASTER...
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, GUESS MY TRIAL'S NOT GOING TOO BADLY. MY LAWYER SEEMS TO THINK I'LL GET OFF WITH FIVE YEARS--ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE IN LESS THAN TWO.
TWO YEARS... IN THE HEAVIEST SLAMMER IN THE COUNTRY, PROBABLY THE WORLD.
TIME ENOUGH TO MEMORIZE EVERY CRACK IN THE WALL... TO OBSESS OVER EVERY FLEETING THOUGHT... TO GO STIR CRAZY THINKING ABOUT THE MOCKERY OF A LIFE I HAVE TO LIVE...
MARK GRUENWALD..STORY
DON HECK.....PENCILS AND INKS
RICK PARKER..... LETTERS
M. HANDS ...COLORS

LIFE--HA! DID I EVER HAVE A CHANCE TO LEAD A REASONABLE LIFE...OR WAS I MEANT TO BECOME A LIMBLESS FREAK UNFIT FOR POLITE SOCIETY?
I NEVER LET MYSELF THINK ABOUT IT MUCH...DION'T WANT TO WALLOW IN SELF-PITY...
BUT HERE...WHAT DOES IT MATTER? IF I WANT TO WALLOW, I HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO DO SO!
"OH, MAN... MIND'S DRIFTING BACK. HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THIS STUFF IN YEARS. WHERE DID I GO WRONG? WHERE...? REMEMBER WHEN I WAS TWELVE.. BACK ON THE ISLAND. MAYBE IT STARTED THERE. ONE SUMMER NIGHT, MY BROTHER GOT THE BRIGHT IDEA TO SEE HOW MUCH FRUIT WE COULD STEAL. AT THAT TIME, BIG JOHN COULD DO NO WRONG AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED.
" I WENT ALONG FOR THE RIDE, AND THAT FAT OLD SHOPKEEPER WAS SHARPER THAN WE'D FIGURED...
COME BACK HERE, YOU THIEVIN' KIDS!
JOHN--WAIT UP!
GOT YOU!
I DIN'T TAKE ANYTHING, MON--LOOK! I'VE GOT NOTHIN' IN ME HANDS! IT WAS MY BR--
WAPP
AN' IF I KITCH YOU OR YOUR BROTHER 'ROUND MY STAND AGAIN, I'LL WHACK THE BLACK RIGHT OFF YOUR BOTTOMS!
"BROTHER"? D-DID I TELL 'IM JOHN WAS ME BROTHER?"
HEY, QUINCEY-WINCEY, WHAT HOOPEN YOU, MON?
I GOT CAUGHT... BEAT!
HEY! YOU SQUEAL ON ME, MON? YOU TELL 'IM WHO I WAS?
NO, JOHNNY--NO! I SWEAR!
I FIND OUT YOU LYIN', YOU LITTLE GIMP--!
NO--!

"JOHN DID FIND OUT. BEAT ME HARD. BUT THE BEATING HE GAVE THE SHOPKEEPER A FEW NIGHTS LATER... KILLED HIM
"JOHN GOT AWAY WITH IT, THOUGH. HE WAS LIKE THAT. AND A FEW YEARS LATER HE FOUND HIMSELF ONE OF HERVE ARGOSY'S TOP MUSCLE-MEN IN HIS GUN EXPORTING BUSINESS...
SO I GOT THIS KID BROTHER WHO WANTS TO WORK FOR YOU, MR. ARGOSY.
HE A GOOD KID?
PRETTY GOOD.
SEE ANTOINE. HE'S GOT A JOB WE COULD TRY HIM OUT ON.
"I REMEMBER HOW JOHN BROKE THE GOOD NEWS TO ME..
GET THIS STRAIGHT, QUINCE.
YOU MUFF IT, MAKE ME LOOK BAD IN FRONT OF THE BOSS--
"I NEVER LET JOHN FINISH HIS THREATS.
I WON'T MON. I SWEAR!
SEE TO IT.
THANKS, JOHNNY!
"A FEW NIGHTS LATER, THERE I WAS..
"...UNLOADING COCAINE FROM A BANANA BOAT...
"IT WAS THE NIGHT ANY CHANCE I HAD AT A NORMAL LIFE ENDED.
HEY, MON-- THOSE LIGHTS-- WHAT--?
THIS IS THE POLICE! REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE AND PUT YOUR HANDS ON TOP OF YOUR HEADS!

"IT WASN'T THAT I WAS SO FRIGHTENED OF THE POLICE. I WAS FRIGHTENED OF WHAT MY BROTHER WOULD DO TO ME WHEN HE LEARNED ABOUT THE BUST.
"WITHOUT THINKING, I BOLTED AND RAN TO THE DOCK--
"--AND DOVE INTO THE INKY-BLACK WATERS...
"I COULDN'T LET THEM CATCH ME. BETTER TO BE DEAD THAN BE CAUGHT, I THOUGHT.
"EVEN NOW, I CAN FEEL THE WAY MY ARMS FLAILED THROUGH THAT WATER... HOW MY LEGS, WEIGHTED DOWN BY MY SHOES, KICKED SO DESPERATELY...
"I TRIED TO STAY DOWN, GO AS FAR AS I COULD WITHOUT COMING UP. I GOT DIZZY, MY HEAD FELT LIKE IT WOULD BURST. I CLAMBERED TO THE SURFACE AND BEFORE I COULD CATCH MY BREATH, I SAW THE POLICE BOAT BEARING DOWN UPON ME.
"I REMEMBER NOTHING AFTER THAT.
"NOTHING TILL I WOKE UP IN THE HOSPITAL, AND HAD AN ITCH ON MY FOREHEAD THAT I COULDN'T SCRATCH...
"... BECAUSE MY ARMS WERE GONE!
"AND I HAD THIS PRICKLY TINGLING SENSATION IN MY LOWER LEGS... PARTS OF MY BODY THAT AT THAT TIME WERE IN MEDICAL WASTE BAGS IN THE BASEMENT...
"IT WAS JOHN WHO TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED.
--PROPELLERS CHEWED YOU UP AND SPAT YOU OUT, QUINCE. NO ONE CAN FIGURE HOW YOU MANAGED TO STICK ALL FOUR OF YOUR LIMBS INTO IT.
REALLY, MON, ONE WOULD'VE BEEN PLENTY.
YOU ARE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE, LITTLE BRO.

YOU WON'T BE SEEING MUCH OF ME ANYMORE, QUINCE. ARGOSY'S SENDIN' ME TO EUROPE TO RUN SOME OF HIS TRADE.
COOL, HUH?
ANOTHER THING. I'M NOT JOHN MCIVER ANYMORE. I'M CALLING MYSELF JOHN BUSHMASTER. ONE OF MY LADYFRIENDS THOUGHT OF IT. A NEW NAME FOR MY NEW LIFE.
YOU REMEMBER THAT, HEAR?
WELL, YOU TAKE CARE NOW, QUINCE. I'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU DON'T WRITE
"I LAY THERE, WATCHING HIM STROLL OUT, LIKE THE COCK OF THE ROOST. IT WAS THE LAST TIME I'D EVER SEE HIM.
"THE NUMBNESS THAT ENVELOPED ME SLOWLY BUILT INTO IMPOTENT RAGE.
"IT JUST WASN'T FAIR, I SCREAMED INSIDE. I WAS ALWAYS GETTING CAUGHT HE WAS ALWAYS GETTING AWAY. I HATED HIM FOR WALKING OUT ON ME IN MY TIME OF GREATEST NEED.
"I HATED MYSELF FOR NOT BEING HIM.
"I HATED LIFE ITSELF. BUT I LACKED ANY MEANS TO END IT.
"MAYBE A WEEK OR A MONTH LATER, I GOT A VISITOR. A WHITE MAN, AN AMERICAN, AN EXECUTIVE OF THE ROXXON OIL COMPANY...
"SAID HIS NAME WAS SETH VOELKER...
--AN EXPERIMENT IN PROSTHETICS. ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.
MY RESEARCH GROUP KEEPS ABREAST OF ACCIDENT REPORTS AND NOTICED YOUR CASE.
INTERESTED, MR. MCIVER? THE PROSTHETIC DEVICES WOULD BE YOURS TO USE AND KEEP.
"OF COURSE I WAS INTERESTED. I WANTED MY ARMS AND LEGS BACK WITHOUT THEM. HOW COULD I SLIT MY THROAT OR JUMP OFF A BUILDING?
BUT I'M UNDER ARREST, SIR. I'M SUPPOSED TO--
YOU LET ROXXON WORRY ABOUT THE POLICE, SON.

"I DIDN'T KNOW HOW HE ARRANGED IT, BUT HE GOT ME RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL, OUT OF POLICE CUSTODY, OFF THE ISLAND, AN INTO AN INCREDIBLE MEDICAL FACILITY IN THE STATES IN A MATTER OF DAYS.
"IT WAS A LITTLE SCARY, BUT I TRIED TO COMFORT MYSELF BY SAYING, WHAT WAS THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN-- I'D DIE?
"THE OPERATION TOOK A WEEK. THIS WAS NO SIMPLE PROCEDURE SLIPPING FALSE LIMBS ONTO THE STUMPS OF MY OLD ONES.
" THAT WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER MY LIFE.
" THEY WERE TRYING OUT SOME TECHNIQUE BY WHICH BIONIC PARTS WOULD BE JOINED TO LIVING TISSUE WITHOUT REJECTION AND WHERE NERVE IMPULSES COULD CONTROL BIONIC MOTOR MOVEMENT.
"WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW, BECAUSE I HADN'T BEEN MOTIVATED TO READ THE CONTRACT BEFORE I SIGNED IT, IS THAT PART OF THEIR OPERATION WAS HIGHLY UNORTHODOX..
"IN THE RECOVERY ROOM, I AWOKE TO FIND I HAD HANDS AND ARMS AGAIN. NO, THEY WERE NOT AS GOOD AS THE OLD THEY WOULD NEVER ENABLE ME TO FEEL THINGS THE WAY THEY ONCE FELT. BUT STILL..
' MY ELATION WAS SHORT-LIVED. I THEN LOOKED AT MY FEET...
"...OR WHERE MY FEET SHOULD HAVE BEEN
WHAT--?!!
ROXXON'S IDEA OF AN IMPROVEMENT, Mr MacIVER.

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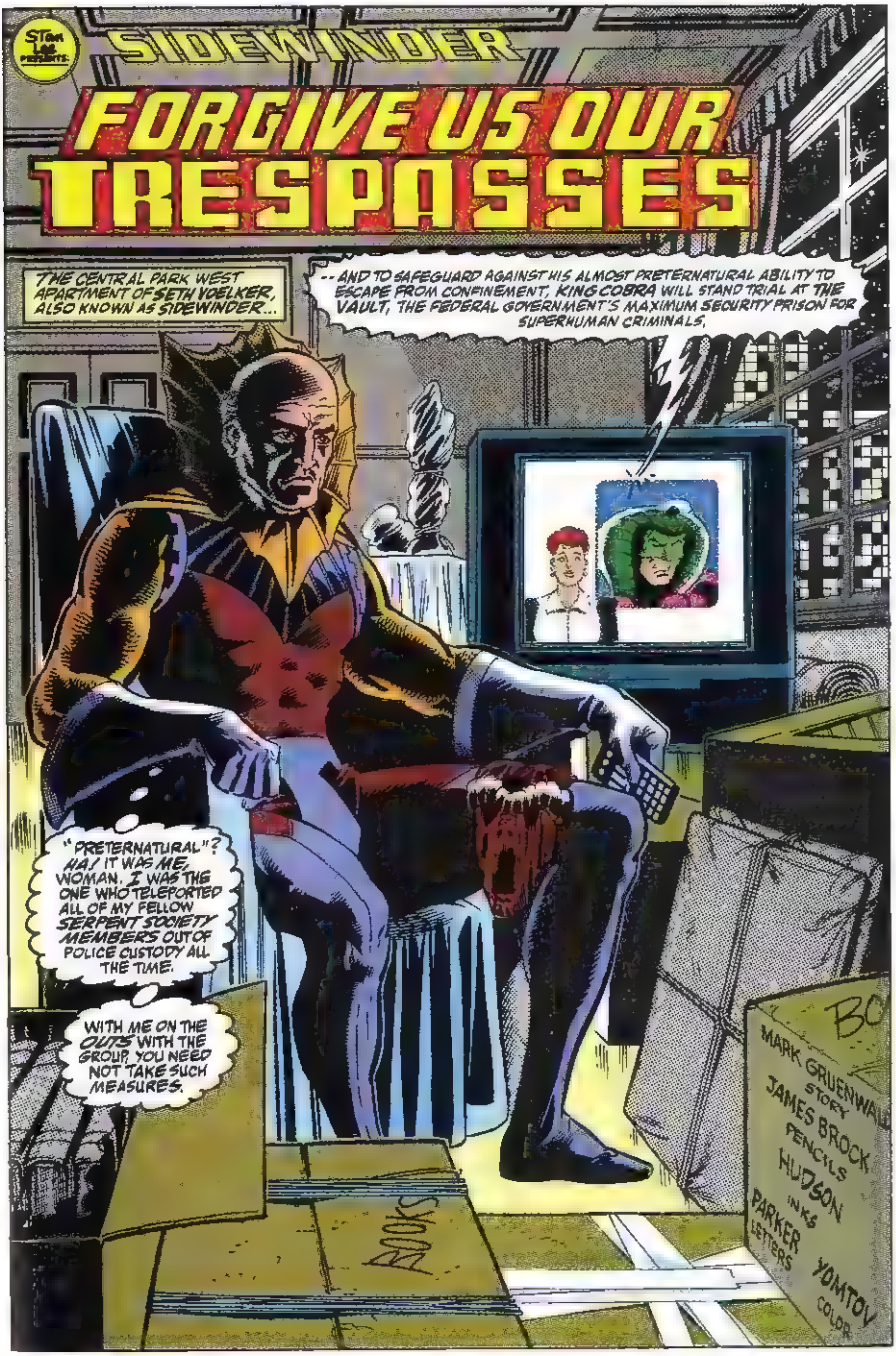
TSR™
TSR, Inc.

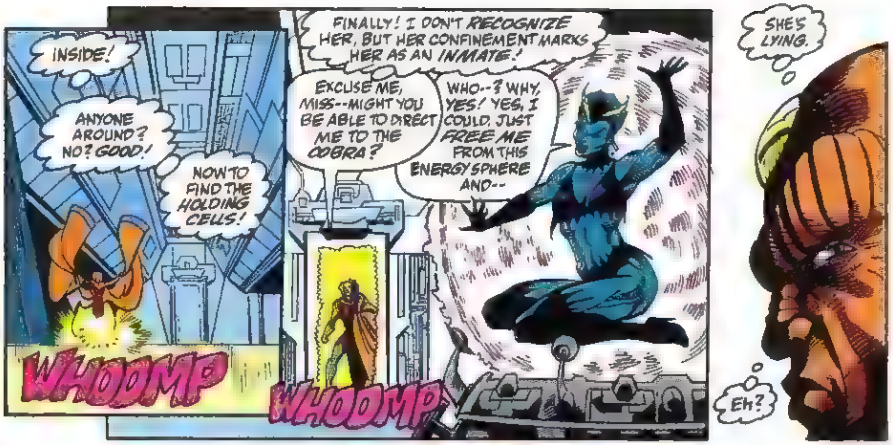
SO WHILE MY BROTHER WAS BECOMING A POWERFUL EUROPEAN UNDERWORLD FINANCIER, I'D BECOME A SIDESHOW FREAK.
THE ROXXON PEOPLE PROMISED ME THAT IF I'D TRIED OUT THE SNAKE TAIL FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR, THEY'D REPLACE IT WITH REAL LEGS. WHY THEY WANTED RESEARCH ON HOW A HUMAN SNAKE WOULD MOVE I DON'T KNOW.
AND TRUE TO FORM, BEFORE THE YEAR WAS UP, ROXXON'S BRAND CORPORATION LABORATORY WENT OUT OF BUSINESS, AND I NEVER GOT MY LEGS.
MY BROTHER, ON THE OTHER HAND, UNDERWENT A PROCESS TO BECOME SUPER-STRONG, AND FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD, HE DIED BECAUSE OF IT. TOOK HIS NAME TO HONOR HIM OR SPITE HIM, I DON'T REMEMBER WHICH.
SO WHICH ONE OF US IS BETTER OFF JOHNNY? YOU, WHO HAD IT ALL AND CHECKED OUT EARLY, OR ME WHO NEVER CAUGHT A BREAK AND AM ROTTING AWAY IN PRISON? ROTTING AWAY? I DON'T KNOW THAT YET. MAYBE LIFE IN THE VAULT WILL BE SOMETHING LIKE LIFE IN THE SERPENT SOCIETY... EXCEPT WITHOUT THE MISSIONS. THE SOCIETY... PRISON... WHERE ELSE CAN A FREAK LIKE ME FIT IN?
MR. McIVER...?
MY LAWYER!
MR. SENESCU, WHY ARE THEY LETTING YOU IN HERE?
GOOD NEWS, MY FRIEND. YOU'RE BEING RELEASED.
INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF WRONG-DOING!
COME ON, LET'S MOVE IT BEFORE SOMEONE CHANGES HIS MIND!
BUT--!
FREE... IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD? WHERE I'M A FREAKISH MISFIT?
NO! I'LL COMMIT A STUPID CRIME THE INSTANT I'M SET FREE. THEN THEY'LL TAKE ME BACK. THEY'LL HAVE TO...!
THE END

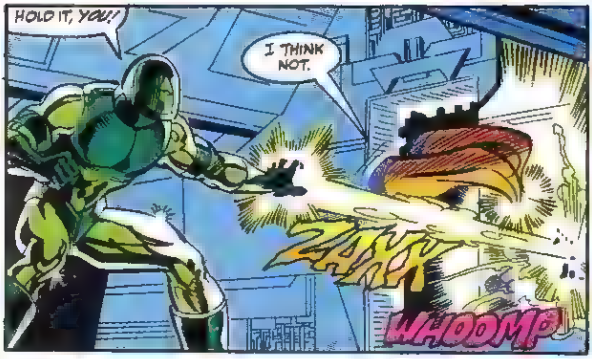

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
SIDEWINDER
FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES
THE CENTRAL PARK WEST APARTMENT OF SETH VOELKER, ALSO KNOWN AS SIDEWINDER...
-- AND TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST HIS ALMOST PRETERNATURAL ABILITY TO ESCAPE FROM CONFINEMENT, KING COBRA WILL STAND TRIAL AT THE VAULT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON FOR SUPERHUMAN CRIMINALS.
"PRETERNATURAL"? HA! IT WAS ME, WOMAN. I WAS THE ONE WHO TELEPORTED ALL OF MY FELLOW SERPENT SOCIETY MEMBERS OUT OF POLICE CUSTODY ALL THE TIME.
WITH ME ON THE OUTS WITH THE GROUP, YOU NEED NOT TAKE SUCH MEASURES.
BOOKS
BC
MARK GRUENWALD STORY
JAMES BROCK PENCILS
HUDSON INKS
PARKER LETTERS
YOMTOV COLOR

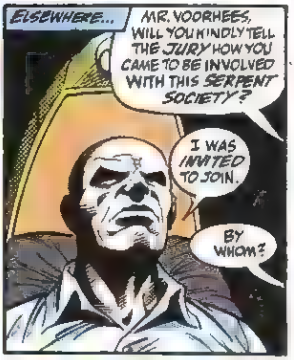
IF THE COBRA IS CONVICTED OF ALL THE CHARGES LEVELED AGAINST HIM, HE WILL BE SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.
THIS IS KATY FONG REPORTING FROM--
CLIC
WITH ALMOST ALL OF THE SERPENT SOCIETY NOW BEHIND BARS, MAYBE I WON'T HAVE TO MOVE AFTER ALL.
WHO AM I KIDDING? SOMEDAY WHEN I LEAST EXPECT IT, THERE'LL BE A KNOCK ON THE DOOR, AND SOMEONE WILL SAY "COBRA SENDS HIS REGARDS" AS HE MOWS ME DOWN.
"I HAD SUCH A NICE QUIET RETIREMENT GOING HERE UNTIL I LEARNED DIAMOND-BACK WAS GOING TO BE EXECUTED.
"SHE'D SAVED MY LIFE ONCE, AND SO I CAME HERE. DESPITE THE FACT THAT I'M A THIEF AND A SCOUNDREL, I'M A MAN WHO PAYS HIS DEBTS. BUT RESCUING HER MADE ENEMIES OF ALL MY FORMER ASSOCIATES
INGRATES-- ALL OF THEM! WHY CAN'T THEY BE HONORABLE LIKE ME?
IT SEEMS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PACK MY BELONGINGS AND LEAVE MY COMFORTABLE QUARTERS IN MY FAVORITE CITY IN THE U.S....
"I GAVE THEM THINGS CRIMINALS LIKE THEMSELVES HAD NEVER KNOWN BEFORE -- JOB SECURITY, GREAT FRINGE BENEFITS, FREEDOM FROM PERSECUTION-- AND WHAT DID THEY DO? THEY SUPPORTED THE VIPER IN HER BID TO TAKE OVER THE SOCIETY!
"I WAS CRUSHED.

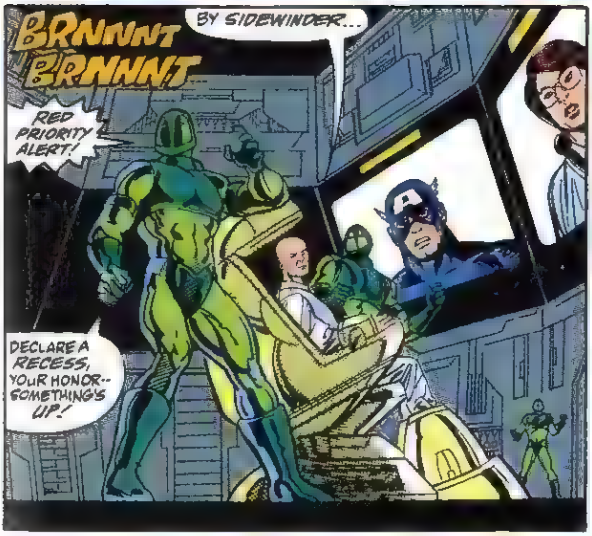
"TRUE, FOUR OF THEM REMAINED LOYAL, AND THE COBRA APPARENTLY ONLY PRETENDED TO BETRAY ME SO HE COULD GET BACK AT THE VIPER, BUT THE OTHERS' BETRAYALS HURT AND I JUST COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO LET BYGONES BE BYGONES.
"SO, WITH NO SMALL REGRET, I TURNED THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SERPENT SOCIETY OVER TO THE COBRA, IN EXCHANGE FOR A 25% CUT OF ALL OF THE ORGANIZATION'S FUTURE EARNINGS, I PLACED ALL OF THE SOCIETY'S ASSETS UNDER HIS MANAGEMENT.
SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN IN RETIREMENT, LIVING A STUDIOUSLY DULL LIFE, TENDING MY GARDEN AND PLAYING MY MUSIC.
FROM WHAT I HEAR, THE COBRA HAS ENCOUNTERED QUITE A BIT OF DIFFICULTY MANAGING THE TEAM. PROFITS HAVE BEEN WAY DOWN IN HIS FIRST YEAR OF LEADERSHIP.
THE ONE THING I COULD PROMISE BUT HE COULDN'T, OF COURSE, WAS THAT NO MEMBER WOULD EVER HAVE TO GO TO JAIL AGAIN. I WAS NOT ABOUT TO SELL THE SECRET OF MY TELEPORTATION--NOT AT ANY PRICE.
AND NOW WITH MOST OF ITS MEMBERSHIP GOING TO PRISON, THE SERPENT SOCIETY--THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF MY BRILLIANT CAREER--IS DEAD.
ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, NONE OF ITS MEMBERS WILL BE FREE TO COME AFTER ME.
WHY AM I DELUDING MYSELF? NONE OF THEM WILL BE BEHIND BARS FOREVER. EVENTUALLY, THE COBRA WILL PASS THE WORD TO GET ME.
BLAST IT!
SLAM
IS MY ONLY ALTERNATIVE THEN TO GO INTO HIDING? I DON'T OWE THE COBRA OR ANY OF THEM ANYTHING! BUT THEY THINK I DO, BECAUSE OF HOW I HELPED DIAMONDBACK!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO TO ACQUIT MYSELF IN THEIR EYES--SPRING THEM ALL OUT OF PRISON?
THAT WOULD BE LUNACY. FROM ALL REPORTS, THE VAULT IS TELEPORTATION-PROOF.
AND EVEN IF I DID MANAGE TO FREE THEM SUCH AN ACTIVITY WOULD PROVOKE RENEWED POLICE INTEREST IN ME.
HAVE THE POLICE AFTER ME--OR THE SERPENT SOCIETY AFTER ME? WHAT A NO-WIN SITUATION.
WHOOM
I MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND.

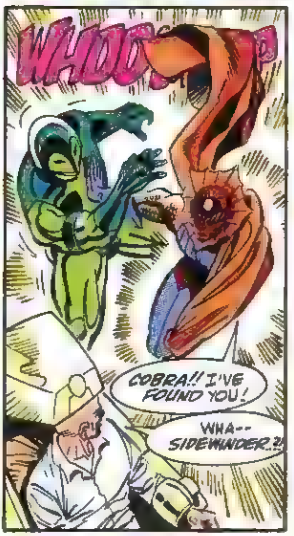
ACROSS THE COUNTRY, SIDEWINDER RIPPLES IN AND OUT OF SPACE, MOMENTARILY VISIBLE EVERY FIFTY MILES OR SO.
WHOOMP
WHOOMP
WHOOMP
WHOOMP
WADDOMP
FINALLY, ON A MOUNTAINTOP SOMEWHERE IN THE COLORADO ROCKIES...
THE VAULT, RIGHT WHERE MY SOURCES HAD SAID IT WAS.
SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THE INCARCERATION OF SUPERHUMAN CRIMINALS REPUTEDLY, THE MOST ESCAPE-PROOF PENITENTIARY ON THE ENTIRE PLANET.
ONLY A MADMAN WOULD RISK SETTING FOOT INSIDE SUCH A PLACE IF HE DIDN'T HAVE TO.
A MADMAN... OR SOMEONE DESPERATELY SEEKING TRANQUILITY.
I SWEAR IF I GET OUT OF THIS, I WILL NEVER TAKE SUCH A RISK AGAIN!
THIS IS PERIMETER UNIT SEVEN, INVESTIGATING AN ENERGY BLIP IN QUADRANT FOUR, BLOCK TWELVE!
MY WORD--THEY'RE ALREADY AWARE OF MY PRESENCE!
THE TIME TO HESITATE IS PAST.
WHOOMP
I MUST DO WHAT MUST BE DONE WITHOUT FURTHER RETROSPECTION!

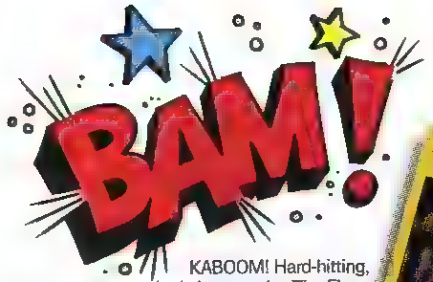

INSIDE!
ANYONE AROUND? NO? GOOD!
NOW TO FIND THE HOLDING CELLS!
WHOOMP
FINALLY! I DON'T RECOGNIZE HER, BUT HER CONFINEMENT MARKS HER AS AN INMATE!
EXCUSE ME, MISS--MIGHT YOU BE ABLE TO DIRECT ME TO THE COBRA?
WHO--? WHY, YES! YES, I COULD, JUST FREE ME FROM THIS ENERGY SPHERE AND--
WHOOMP
SHE'S LYING.
Eh?


HOLD IT, YOU!
I THINK NOT.
ZANK
WHOOMP


ELSEWHERE...
MR. VOORHEES, WILL YOU KINDLY TELL THE JURY HOW YOU CAME TO BE INVOLVED WITH THIS SERPENT SOCIETY?
I WAS INVITED TO JOIN.
BY WHOM?


BRNNNT BRNNNT
BY SIDEWINDER...
RED PRIORITY ALERT!
DECLARE A RECESS, YOUR HONOR--SOMETHING'S UP!


WHOOSH
COBRA!! I'VE FOUND YOU!
WHA--SIDEWINDER?!



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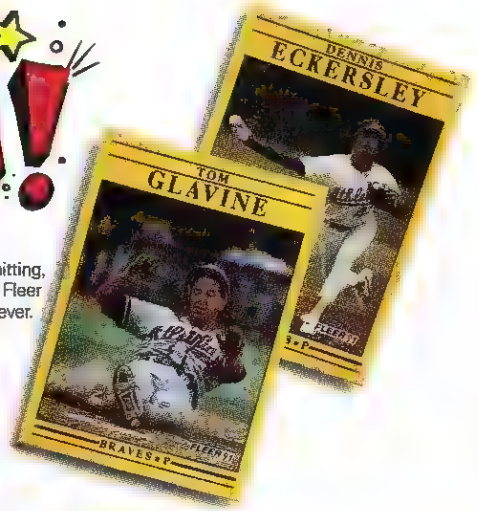

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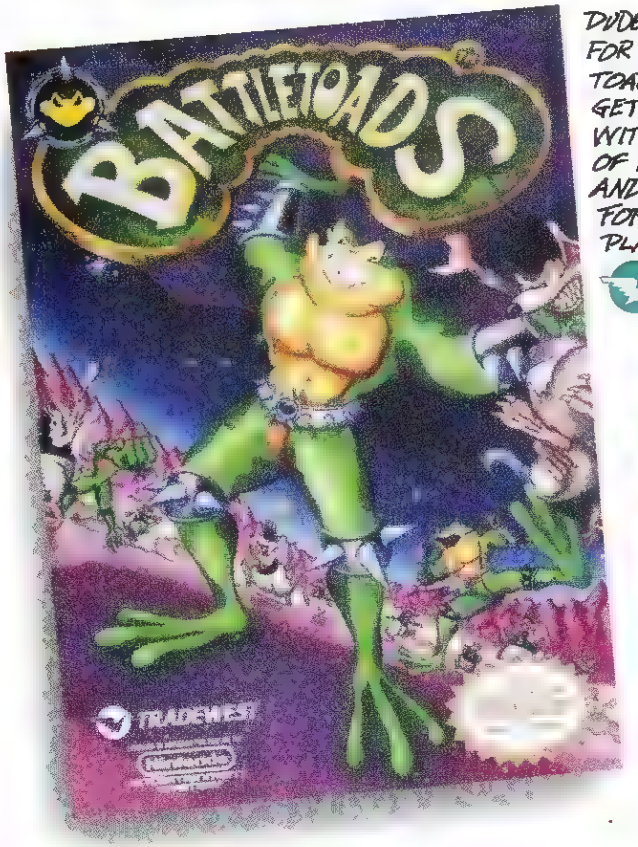
COMPARED TO BATTLETOADS, TURTLES SEEM LIKE POND SCUM.



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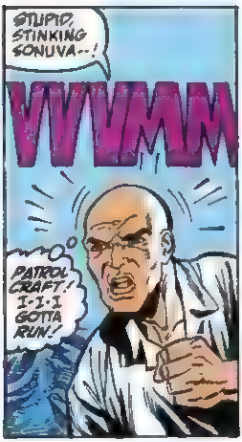
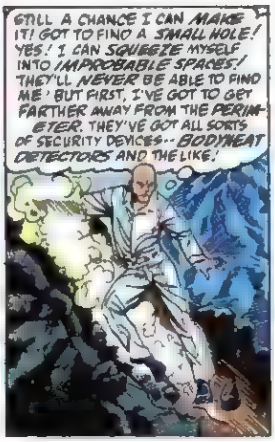
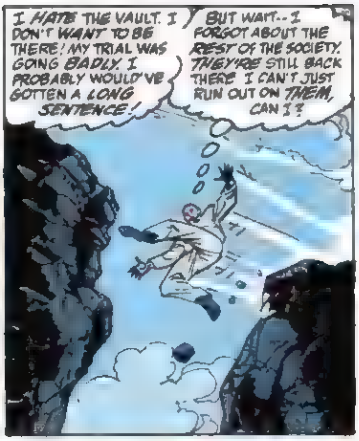
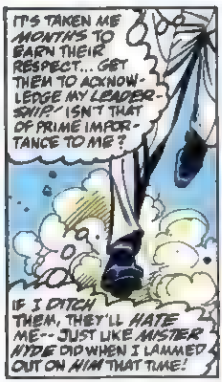
TRADEWEST

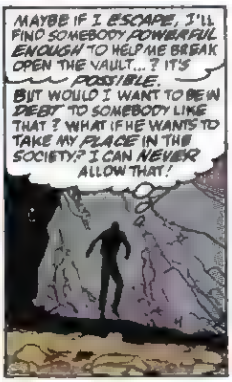
GET UNDER MY CLOAK AND I'LL--
YAIGH!
THUD
BEEN... HIT!
GOT TO CHANCE IT!
WHOOMP
WHOA--!
I'M FREE! YOU DID IT! WE'RE OUT!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, SIDEWINDER!
HUH?
NO.. NOT EXACTLY ALL RIGHT. THAT GUARDSMAN'S BLAST RIPPED THROUGH MY ARMOR. TORE ME OPEN. DISLOCATED MY SHOULDER.
BUT STILL--YOU DID IT! YOU'RE ONE OF THE SELECT FEW TO EVER BREAK SOMEBODY OUT OF THE VAULT! COME ON! WE'RE NOT OUT OF DANGER YET! THEIR PERIMETER PATROL WILL BE ON TOP OF US IN MOMENTS. TELEPORT US FARTHER AWAY!
I DON'T THINK I CAN, COBRA. I'M FEELING LIGHTHEADED. THAT JUMP TOOK A LOT OUT OF ME.
WERE I TO TAKE YOU, I RISK PASSING OUT AND LOSING YOU IN TRANSIT!
BUT--!
I'VE GOT TO GO SOMEWHERE... REST. I EXPECT THIS MAKES US EVEN FOR MY KIDNAPING OF DIAMONDBACK... NO?
WAIT--!
GOOD LUCK.
WHOOMP
YOU IDIOT-- DON'T LEAVE ME HERE!


STUPID, STINKING SONUVA--!
VVVMM
PATROL CRAFT! I-I-I GOTTA RUN!


STILL A CHANCE I CAN MAKE IT! GOT TO FIND A SMALL HOLE! YES! I CAN SQUEEZE MYSELF INTO IMPROBABLE SPACES! THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND ME! BUT FIRST, I'VE GOT TO GET FARTHER AWAY FROM THE PERIMETER. THEY'VE GOT ALL SORTS OF SECURITY DEVICES--BODYHEAT DETECTORS AND THE LIKE!

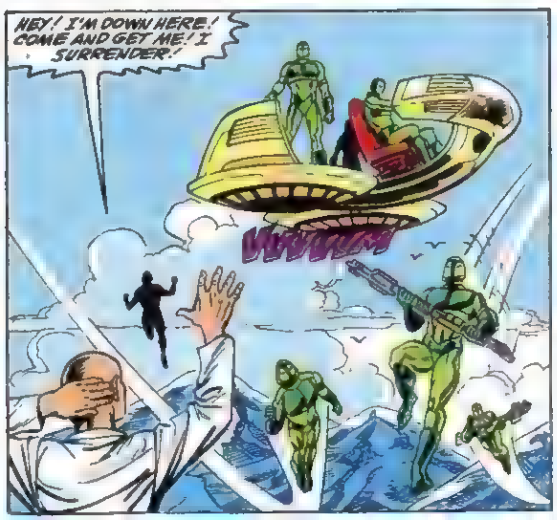

I HATE THE VAULT. I DON'T WANT TO BE THERE! MY TRIAL WAS GOING BADLY. I PROBABLY WOULD'VE GOTTEN A LONG SENTENCE!
BUT WAIT--I FORGOT ABOUT THE REST OF THE SOCIETY. THEY'RE STILL BACK THERE. I CAN'T JUST RUN OUT ON THEM, CAN I?


IT'S TAKEN ME MONTHS TO EARN THEIR RESPECT... GET THEM TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY LEADERSHIP--ISN'T THAT OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO ME?
IF I DITCH THEM, THEY'LL HATE ME--JUST LIKE MISTER HYDE DID WHEN I LAMMED OUT ON HIM THAT TIME!


MAYBE IF I ESCAPE, I'LL FIND SOMEBODY POWERFUL ENOUGH TO HELP ME BREAK OPEN THE VAULT... ? IT'S POSSIBLE.
BUT WOULD I WANT TO BE IN DEBT TO SOMEBODY LIKE THAT ? WHAT IF HE WANTS TO TAKE MY PLACE IN THE SOCIETY? I CAN NEVER ALLOW THAT!

BLAST IT TO PIECES--IT'S TOO MUCH WORRY, TOO MUCH RISK, TOO MUCH EVERYTHING!

WERE I TO FAIL I'D LOOK LIKE EVEN A BIGGER CHUMP THAN I DO NOW EVERYTIME I THINK I'M COMIN' OUT ON TOP...


HEY! I'M DOWN HERE! COME AND GET ME! I SURRENDER!

HEY, LOOK--CHECK THE VIDEOTAPE, YOU GUYS. I WAS ABDUCTED AGAINST MY WILL! IT WASN'T MY IDEA TO ESCAPE! I WANT TO STAND TRIAL! I WANT TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY DEEDS!
SURE YOU DO, COBESTER.
SIDEWINDER... I'M GOING TO GET YOU FOR THIS, IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!

END

WORTH FIGHTING FOR

FABIAN NICIEZA
WRITER
LARRY ALEXANDER
PENCILER
TIM DZON
INKER
BRAD K. JOYCE
LETTERER
NEL YOMTOV
COLORIST

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

NOMAD

SNAP!
GRRR
AAA--!
RRRAARRK
CUBS! THEY WERE ONLY CUBS!
WHICH MEANS THEIR MOTHER WOULD HAVE TO BE NEARBY, READY TO PROTECT THEM!
SPLOOSH

RRRRRRCH!
SCHAK
KRRAAK
MY LEG!
SO TIRED-- CAN'T FIGHT BACK--
RCHEN!

YIPE!
HAFF
HUFF
HAFF
SHIK
SHIK
SHIK
YEAH--I COULD USE A HAND RIGHT ABOUT NOW, BUDDY...
...BUT IT'S LIKE THIS...
...EXHAUSTION'S KINDA GOT ME DOWN AND--
SHUSH

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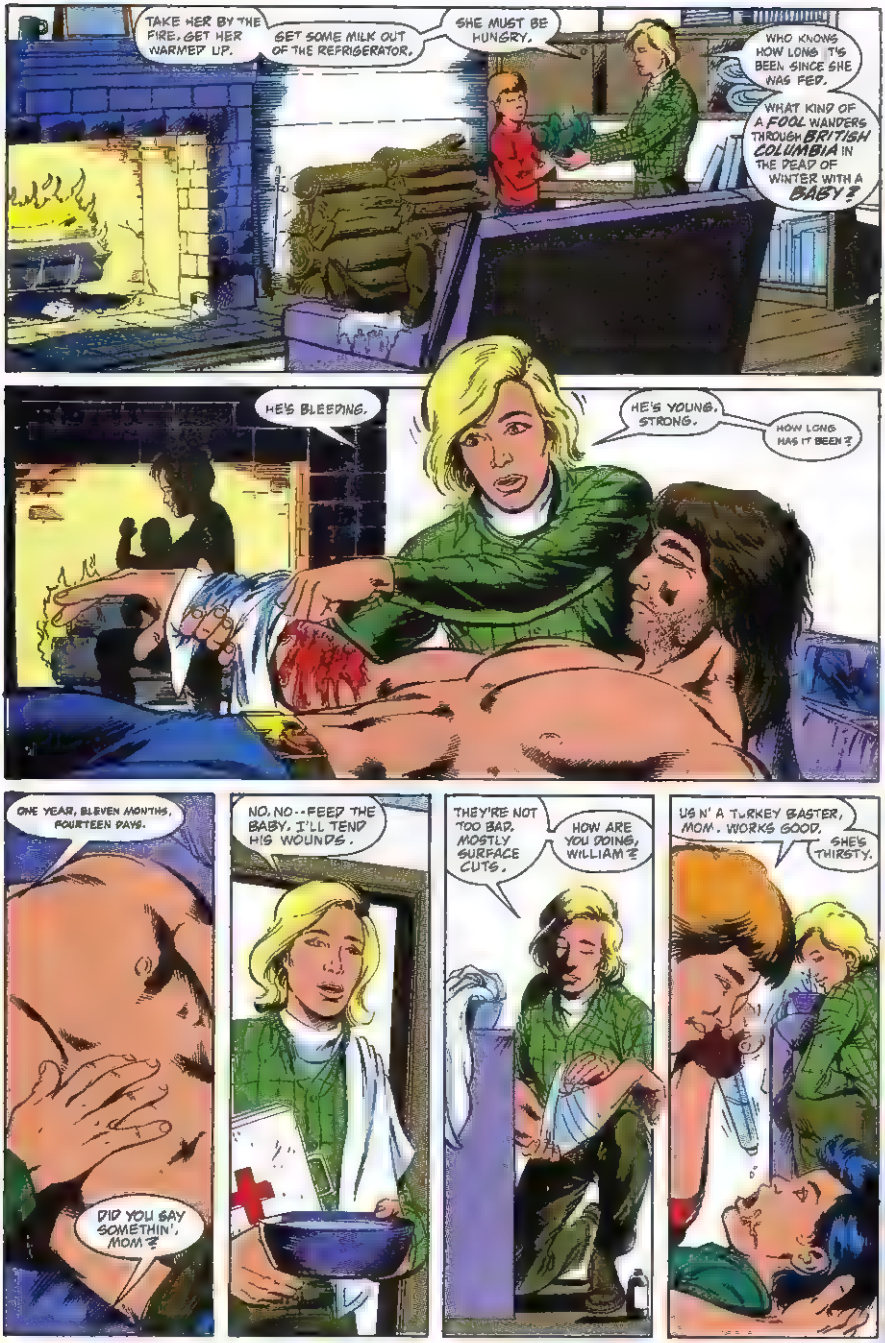
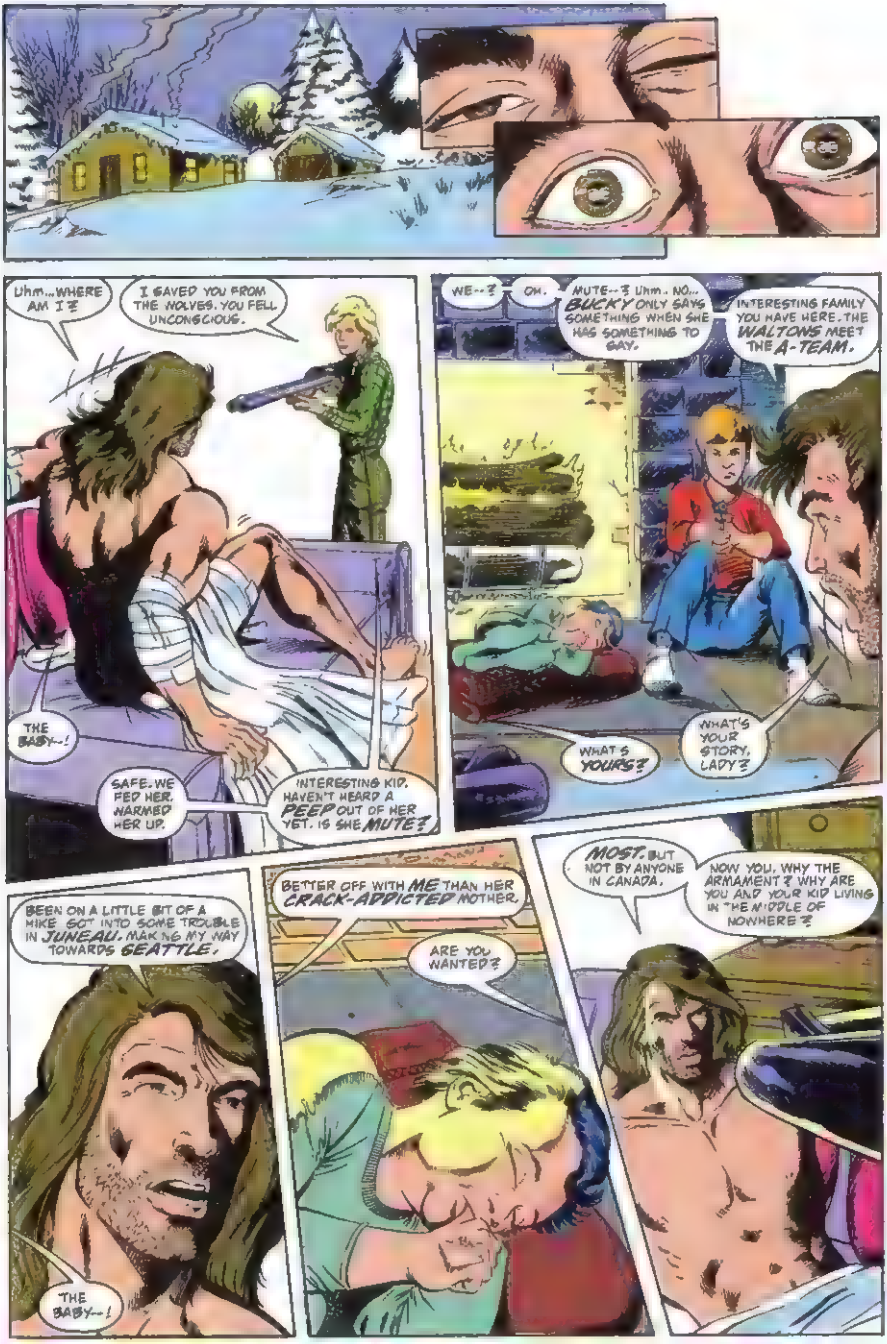
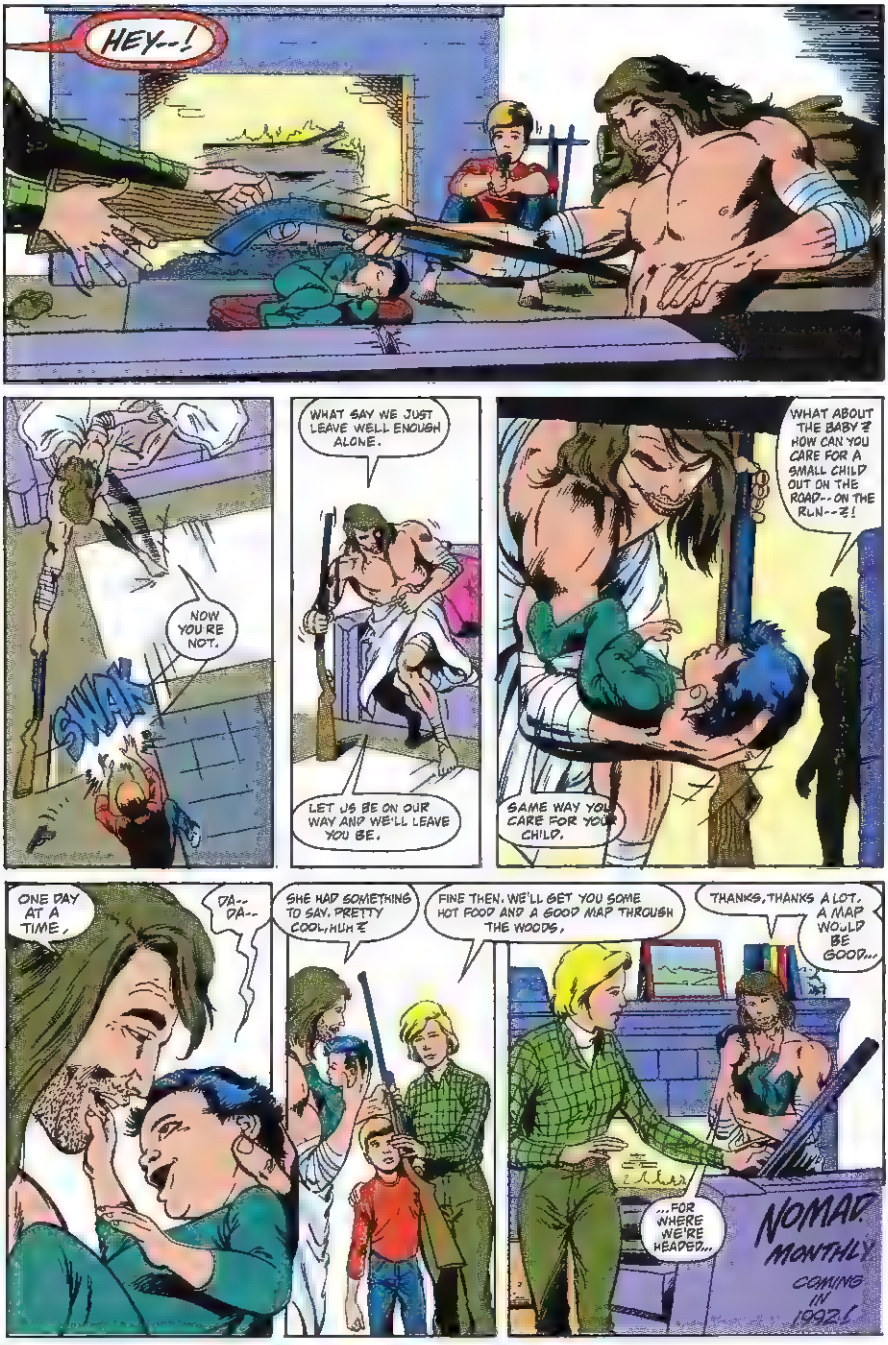
CREEK
BILLY--GIVE ME A HAND--!
WHOAH!

WHERE'D YOU FIND HIM?
OVER THE RIDGE--HE WAS FIGHTING OFF THE WOLFPACK.
YEAH--?
WHO IS HE, MA?
DON'T KNOW.
HE LOOKS PRETTY BEAT UP, MA--
HELP GET HIS JACKET OFF, BILLY.
WHOAH--HEY, MOOOOM--!
WHAT--?
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
WHAT HAVE WE GOTTEN OURSELVES INTO?


TAKE HER BY THE FIRE. GET HER WARMED UP.
GET SOME MILK OUT OF THE REFRIGERATOR.
SHE MUST BE HUNGRY.
WHO KNOWS HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE SHE WAS FED.
WHAT KIND OF A FOOL WANDERS THROUGH BRITISH COLUMBIA IN THE DEAD OF WINTER WITH A BABY?
HE'S BLEEDING.
HE'S YOUNG. STRONG.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
ONE YEAR, ELEVEN MONTHS, FOURTEEN DAYS.
DID YOU SAY SOMETHIN', MOM?
NO, NO--FEED THE BABY. I'LL TEND HIS WOUNDS.
THEY'RE NOT TOO BAD. MOSTLY SURFACE CUTS.
HOW ARE YOU DOING, WILLIAM?
US N' A TURKEY BASTER, MOM. WORKS GOOD.
SHE'S THIRSTY.


Uhm...WHERE AM I?
I SAVED YOU FROM THE WOLVES. YOU FELL UNCONSCIOUS.
THE BABY--!
SAFE. WE FED HER, WARMED HER UP.
INTERESTING KID. HAVEN'T HEARD A PEEP OUT OF HER YET. IS SHE MUTE?
WE--?
OH.
MUTE--? Uhm. NO... BUCKY ONLY SAYS SOMETHING WHEN SHE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY.
INTERESTING FAMILY YOU HAVE HERE. THE WALTONS MEET THE A-TEAM.
WHAT'S YOURS?
WHAT'S YOUR STORY, LADY?
BEEN ON A LITTLE BIT OF A MIKE GOT INTO SOME TROUBLE IN JUNEAU. MAKING MY WAY TOWARDS SEATTLE.
THE BABY--!
BETTER OFF WITH ME THAN HER CRACK-ADDICTED MOTHER.
ARE YOU WANTED?
MOST. BUT NOT BY ANYONE IN CANADA.
NOW YOU, WHY THE ARMAMENT? WHY ARE YOU AND YOUR KID LIVING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?

I'M PROTECTING WHAT'S MINE. RAN INTO SOME TROUBLE WHERE I USED TO LIVE. THERE ARE PEOPLE AFTER ME AND MY SON.
YOU'RE WANTED?
MOST. BUT NOT BY ANYONE IN CANADA.
I MURDERED MY HUSBAND. HE WAS AN ANIMAL. HE DESERVED IT. NO REGRETS.
HE ABUSED ME. ABUSED BILLY.
AND YOU HAD TO RUN AWAY? YOU COULDN'T JUSTIFY IT TO THE LAW?
BILLY IS THE SON OF AN ADDICT.
I'M THE ADDICT.
MY HUSBAND WAS THE CHIEF OF POLICE... AND THE MAN WHO SAVED US BOTH FROM OUR MISERABLE LIVES.
HE WAS A LOCAL HERO. I WAS SCUM HE HELPED FLOAT TO THE TOP AND JOIN THE CREAM OF SOCIETY.
I SEE.
YOU PROTECTED YOURSELF AND YOUR SON FROM THIS GUY WHO SAVED YOU AND NOW YOU HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE FOR LIFE?
THE WOLVES WERE PROTECTING WHAT'S THEIRS AND I'M PROTECTING WHAT'S MINE. THAT'S THE WAY THINGS WORK.
IF YOU'LL GIVE ME MY CLOTHES BACK, WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY...
I CAN'T LET YOU GO.
WHY NOT?
I CAN'T TRUST THE BABY SHOULD BE WITH YOU.
I CAN'T TRUST THAT YOU WON'T TELL PEOPLE I'M HERE.
I COULD SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU!
BUT I'M THE ONE HOLDING THE GUN.


HEY--!
NOW YOU'RE NOT.
SWAK
WHAT SAY WE JUST LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE.
LET US BE ON OUR WAY AND WE'LL LEAVE YOU BE.
WHAT ABOUT THE BABY? HOW CAN YOU CARE FOR A SMALL CHILD OUT ON THE ROAD--ON THE RUN--?!
SAME WAY YOU CARE FOR YOUR CHILD.
ONE DAY AT A TIME.
DA-- DA--
SHE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY. PRETTY COOL, HUH?
FINE THEN. WE'LL GET YOU SOME HOT FOOD AND A GOOD MAP THROUGH THE WOODS.
THANKS, THANKS A LOT. A MAP WOULD BE GOOD...
...FOR WHERE WE'RE HEADED...
NOMAD MONTHLY
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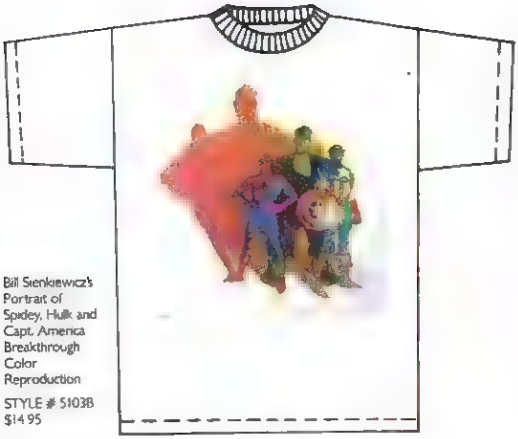

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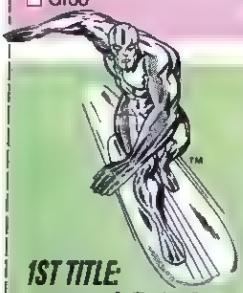

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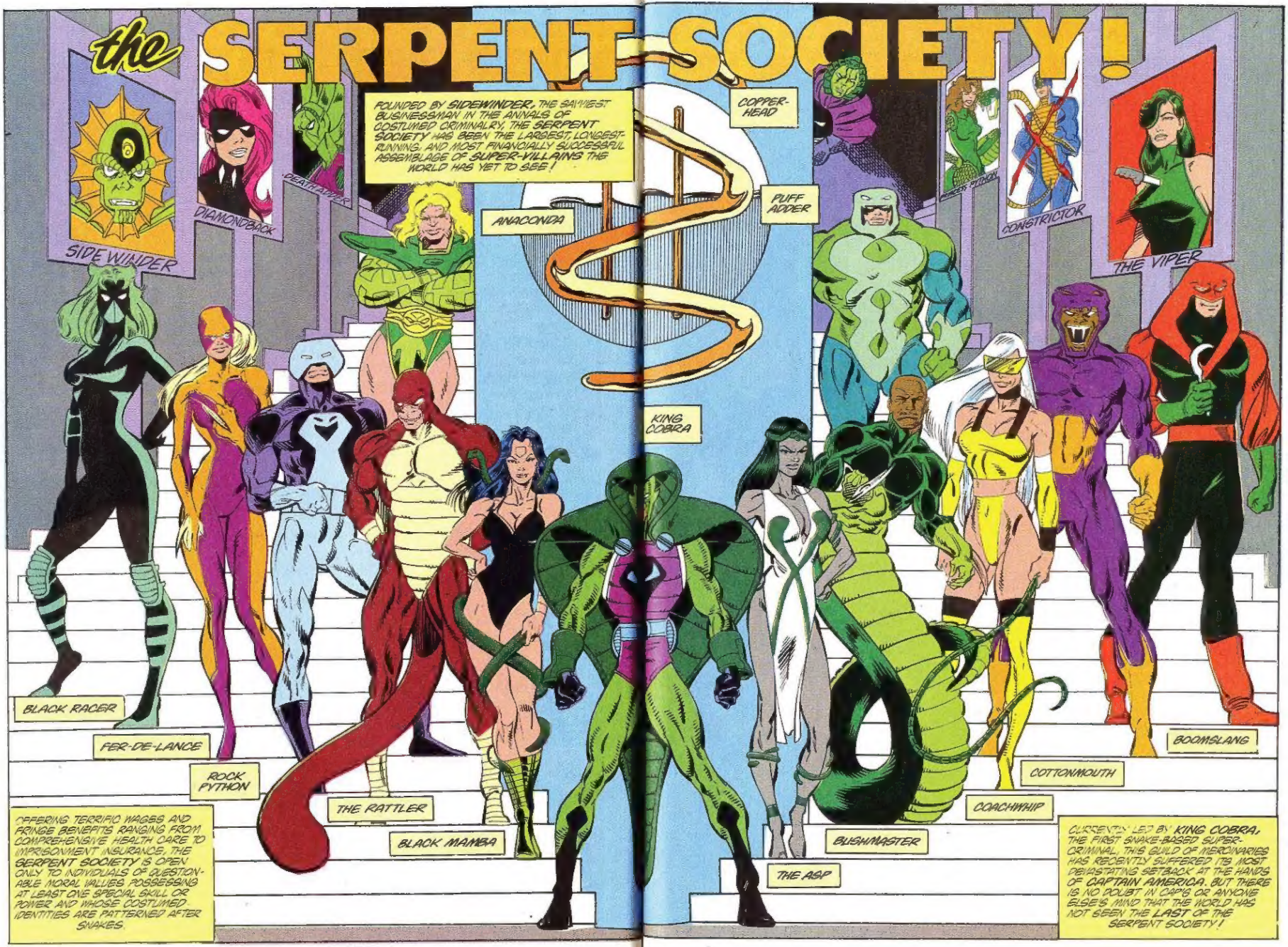
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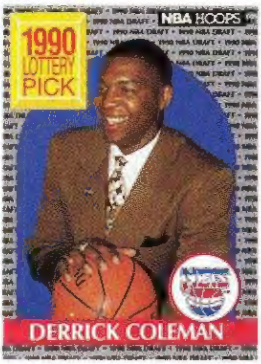
Named NBA's best sixth man in which two seasons?

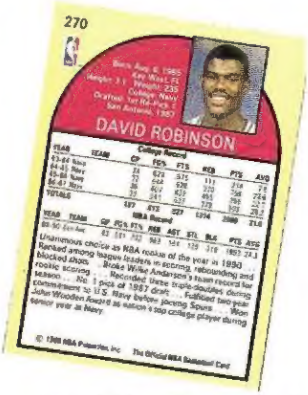


What # pick was he selected in the 1990 NBA draft?

Led the NBA in rebounding in what year?

Where did he play college ball?

What is his middle name?



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